

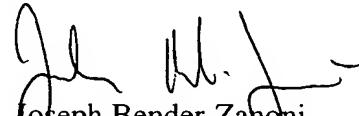
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-22 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant desires to correct the form of dependent claims 17-22 to apparatus claims in order to correspond with independent apparatus claim 16.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 16-22 are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

It is believed that no fee is due for entry of the present amendment, however, if it is determined that a fee is required for entry of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the name of United States Surgical Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Bender-Zahoni  
Reg. No. 51,454  
Attorney for Applicants(s)

Correspondence Address:  
Tyco Healthcare Group LP  
60 Middletown Avenue  
North Haven, CT 06473  
(203) 492-8243